

IMLARM Takes Aim at Kandahar Air Field

*Story and Photos by
Spc. C. Elijah Spencer*

211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kandahar Air Field -- The Military molds an individual into a more disciplined, more efficient and highly motivated person. One of the qualities that has made the military so successful is its attention to detail. It is represented in every aspect of military life, ranging from the meticulous hospital creases on an army bed, to the infamous "gig" line of the Class A dress uniform. The soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division have taken that attention to detail and brought it to a whole new level with its recently instituted Infantry Mountain Leader Advancement Rifle Marksmanship (IMLARM) Course.

The IMLARM course was designed by the cadre of the 10th Mountain Division Light Fighters School in order to enhance the marksmanship levels of soldiers within the division.



Soldiers apply techniques from class while on the range at KAF

This course covers four general areas; rifle marksmanship, close quarters marksmanship, breaching and close quarters battle. Graduates of this course be-

come master trainers, and go on to teach other soldiers the more specific and detailed aspects of rifle marksmanship.

See MTT pg. 9

New Gym Opens at KAF

*Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Dave S. Thompson
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Kandahar Air Field -- Well folks, the wait is finally over. The new Gymnasium is open for all of Kandahar Air Field's (KAF) residents to enjoy. After several months of waiting for all the equipment to come in, Sgt. Maj. John Gurganus, KAF's Mayor, finally sent out the much anticipated "KAF-All" blast e-mail

announcing the gym open for your fitness pleasure.

The cavernous "clam shell" tent structure boasting the latest in modern gym equipment, complete with padded flooring, will be open 24 hours every day. The weights and exercise machines are grouped together in such a way that one doesn't have to wonder all over the gym to work a specific body part. "We went from having the worst

*See GYM
pg. 3.*



KAF's New Gym boasts state-of-the-art equipment and a unique rock climbing wall.





Army deploys lighter, faster AKO

By Joe Burlas

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Feb. 19, 2004) — Army Knowledge Online now offers a stripped-down version that loads up to 10 times faster than the regular service. AKO Lite was developed in response to concerns of deployed Soldiers in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom that AKO took too long to access and use, said Lt. Col. Kenneth Blakely, chief of AKO.

"The normal AKO is very heavy with lots of bytes to download," Blakely said. "Soldiers said they want something faster, so we made AKO Lite. AKO Lite contains access links to the most popular AKO features, like the Web-based e-mail and instant messaging systems, and is very close to the full AKO experience."

A large part of the downsizing to make AKO Lite was getting rid of byte-hungry graphics. The AKO Lite homepage is about a third of the size of the regular version — missing the pictures and links to Army senior leaders, the Army and AKO logos, and the What's New at AKO, Quick Links, My Links and My KCC sections. Users can still access their knowledge collaboration centers via a link at the top of the page.

-Other initiatives that will be implemented in the near future include:

-A server software upgrade that will deliver both AKO and AKO Lite twice as

fast as it does currently.

-Making the viewable area of the announcements section smaller by introducing a scrolling text box.

-Updating all AKO pages with consistent colors and logos.

-Creating a new portal that allows AKO users to create their own homepages that can be viewed by other AKO users.

Not all AKO changes have been applauded by the field. Speaking about the early January Army announcement that limited where AKO Web-based e-mail could automatically be forwarded to, Blakely said it was to make AKO compliant with Army Regulation 25-2, Information Assurance, which was published in November.

"AR 25-2 specifically prohibits automatic e-mail forwarding to unofficial e-mail addresses," Blakely said. "You can still forward any AKO e-mail manually to an unofficial e-mail address if you want to after reading it; you just cannot have the system automatically do it for you."

"I think one of the best things about AKO is that you have a single, portal e-mail address for life," Blakely said. That e-mail address and access to AKO goes with all active, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers wherever they go and it remains valid even into retirement, he said.

AKO Lite can be accessed through the regular AKO sign-in page, www.us.army.mil, from a link on the left



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side of the page. It works with the same user name and password as the regular AKO service.

Kandahar Fire Department Tip of the Week

Know how to use your extinguisher. Remember the acronym PASS.

Pull the pin

Aim the nozzle

Squeeze the handle

Sweep side to side

In case of fire or emergency, contact the KAF fire department hotline at **841-1225**

Submitted by TSgt Michael Hoesch, Assistant Fire Chief





Terry Anthony and Tech. Sgt. Case stand in front of the rock-climbing wall they helped design and build

gym in theater to the very best," said Base Operations Commander, Lt. Col. Steven Mahoney.

After recognizing that U.S. forces will be in the Afghan theater for a while, Mahoney has been hard at work making improvements to the base. "Our simple goal is to make this the best base in theater," he said. "We're not necessarily competing with the other bases, we just want to make KAF the best for the troops."

As you walk around and survey the new gym, the pleasant scent of new equipment is only exceeded by the sight and sounds of servicemembers working out. The featured attraction that distinguishes this gym from any other in the theater, is the 24-foot rock-climbing wall occupying the north end of the gym. The idea for the rock-climbing wall was in keeping with the 10th Mountain Division theme, "Climb to Glory." The wall offers a challenge to climbers of

varying ability levels and also includes a climbing cave constructed within the interior of the wall for people who simply want to hang around.








"This wall was designed with everyone in mind," said Tech. Sgt. Dean Case, the Assistant Fire Chief with the 451st AEG. The Airman from Travis Air Force Base, CA, spent many hours of his spare time designing and helping to construct the wall. With 26 years of climbing experience, his input was invaluable to the success of the structure. A powerfully built man with piercing eyes, he explained the challenges and benefits of the sport and pointed out the numerous safety measures involved in rock-climbing. "I never workout with weights," he said. "Rock-climbing is a full body workout." You don't get calves and forearms like these by simply doing weights. It will definitely challenge you."

Mahoney said the cost for building the wall was reduced significantly by the 'volunteer troop labor.' "I want

to personally thank Sgt Case, Terry Anthony (A contractor with the base electrical company), and all the volunteers that made this wall possible. The KBR folks did a tremendous job not only with the wall but in upgrading the entire facility, including the cardio equipment area." The cardio facility is located next door to the main clamshell and includes treadmills, elliptical machines, stationary bikes, and stair masters to name a few. Mahoney added that more exercise equipment would be arriving in the next few days.

As Lt. Col. Mahoney walks around KAF and points out all the improvements; the freshly painted buildings, the new mini mall, the new boardwalk currently being built, a sense of pride and appreciation washes over him. Now that the new gymnasium is completed, he can set his sights on the next base improvement project. "It's all for the troops," he said. "They deserve it."

KANDAHAR WEEKLY FORECAST

	Mon Feb 23	Tue Feb 24	Wed Feb 25	Thur Feb 26	Fri Feb 27	Sat Feb 28	Sun Feb 29
	 DUST Partly Cloudy With Dust And Haze	 DUST Windy and Dusty Aftn Tstm	 DUST Mostly Cloudy With Dust And Haze	 DUST Partly Cloudy With Dust And Haze	 Partly Cloudy Windy And Dusty	 Partly sunny with haze	 Mostly Sunny
HIGH	79	81	72	73	75	76	77
LOW	41	46	48	39	41	41	43
SUNRISE	0211	0210	0209	0208	0207	0206	0205
SUNSET	1329	1330	1331	1332	1332	1333	1334

KANDAHAR COMBAT WEATHER TEAM





World News

Pakistan Said to Be on Usama Hunt

WASHINGTON — The Pakistani military is confronting tribal leaders in the region where Usama bin Laden may be hiding, apparently using the threat of violence and home destruction to force them to supply information on extremists in the area, the top American general in Afghanistan said Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. David Barno expressed hope that recent efforts by the Pakistani military, combined with a change in U.S. counterinsurgency tactics in Afghanistan, would create a “hammer-and-anvil” effect along the mountainous border between the two countries, in which one force would drive the Al Qaeda fighters into the other. In Pakistan, soldiers and government paramilitaries have been meeting with tribal chiefs for at least six weeks and threatening them with “destruction of homes and things of that nature” unless they cooperate, Barno said.

“That they’re confronting the tribal elders and they’re holding them accountable for activities in their areas of influence is a major step forward,” Barno said, briefing reporters at the Pentagon via teleconference from Afghanistan.

Pakistan says it does not want U.S. forces operating inside its borders, and the U.S. government says it won’t go in without Pakistani permission. Since 2002, Pakistan’s army has staged several operations targeting Al Qaeda fugitives. Residents have reported seeing a small number of foreign personnel on

such operations, but Pakistan denies it.

Al Qaeda supporters, possibly including bin Laden — the Al Qaeda leader — are thought to be in the semiautonomous tribal regions of Pakistan, where many are sympathetic to the Taliban. Previously, the Pakistani military had left the area alone. The government of Pakistan’s president, Pervez Musharraf, has lately been in the hot seat since the



acknowledgment that one of its most prominent senior scientists was selling nuclear technology to several other countries. But the Bush administration has also made a point of praising its efforts in the war on terrorism.

On the Afghan side of the border, Barno said U.S. forces are moving away from targeted raids on suspected militants and toward a system of a body of troops having a specific region to patrol and protect.

U.S. military officials have previously said American troops will step up combat operations in Afghanistan with the spring thaw.

Barno said Al Qaeda’s presence is strongest in the eastern part of the country, while holdouts from Afghanistan’s

homegrown Taliban movement are strongest around Kandahar in the south.

He said they are no longer massing forces for combat, instead turning to bombings against soldiers, aid workers, and civilians, in part to get publicity.

“They can disrupt some of these very worthy non-governmental programs of aid across the country by doing this,” Barno said. “It’s classic terrorism. It’s murder and mayhem. And it’s sowing terror among those that don’t have defenses.”

Barno also backed off from earlier statements from his command that bin Laden would certainly be caught within the year.

“There are no certainties in the warfighting business out here,” he said.

He also said he does not have information that would suggest extremist fighters from Afghanistan and Pakistan are moving in significant numbers to fight the U.S. occupation in Iraq.

“We’re continuing to be watchful in terms of any movement of these [people] back and forth,” he said. “But I don’t think there’s strong indicators that I’ve been able to see in that regard yet.”

Some intelligence suggests that anti-American fighters in both countries are sharing information on their tactics, he said.






World News

Former Enron CEO Skilling Charged

H O U S T O N —

Former Enron chief executive Jeffrey Skilling pleaded not guilty Thursday to 42 counts of fraud, insider trading and giving false statements to auditors. The federal indictment, which was read in federal court in Houston, also includes new charges against former Enron chief accounting officer Rick Causey, who pleaded not guilty to six fraud counts last month.

U.S. Magistrate Frances Stacy, who took his plea, said Skilling would be released on \$5 million bail, pending trial.

Skilling, 50, surrendered to the FBI in Houston just before daybreak Thursday morning, then was taken away in handcuffs to a federal courthouse to face the charges related to his former company's collapse and post-implosion accounting scandals. Skilling is the 28th person — and one of the most anticipated in the Justice Department's investigation into the implosion of the energy company — to face charges.

named in 40 of the counts, 10 of them specifically accusing him of insider trading that



generated \$62.6 million from stock sold from April 2000 through September 2001, which was about a month after he quit Houston-based Enron.

During that time, according to the indictment, he sold shares in blocks ranging from 10,000 to 500,000. In that time, Enron stock sold as high as \$87 in September 2000 down to \$31 a year later. Other former Enron executives invoked their Fifth Amendment rights when brought before Congress to testify.

Skilling is the highest-profile former Enron executive to date to face criminal charges. But all the top executives, in-

cluding Skilling, pocketed millions of dollars from sales of stock prosecutors allege was inflated. Enron shares hit a high of \$90 in August 2000.

The indictment comes just a month after former Enron finance chief Andrew Fastow pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy and agreed to help prosecutors pursue other cases. Skilling's indictment mentions Fastow and former treasurer Ben Glisan, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy and became the first former Enron executive put behind bars.

Skilling in 2002 spoke for himself, insisting during testimony before two congressional panels in February 2002 that he believed Enron was financially healthy when he abruptly quit after only six months as CEO, citing personal reasons he has not explained. Other former executives, including Lay, declined to testify at all. Fastow was one of Skilling's first hires shortly after Skilling joined Enron in 1990. In his guilty plea, Fastow admitted that he and others manipulated Enron's books so the company would appear successful while using various part-

nerships to enrich himself, his family and chosen colleagues.

Fastow's lawyers said when he was indicted on nearly 100 counts in October 2002 that he was hired to do off-the-books financing and that Enron's top officers and directors approved and praised his work. Causey's indictment said he gained more than \$14 million from selling Enron stock and stock options — netting a profit in excess of \$5 million — and earned more than \$3 million in salary and bonuses from 1998 through late 2001.

The main action in a conglomerate of federal shareholder lawsuits in Houston alleges Skilling gained more than \$70 million from selling 1.3 million shares of stock — about 43 percent of his holdings — from June 1996 through November 2001. Skilling also received \$13.2 million in bonuses from 1997 through 2001. When Skilling resigned, he did not take a \$20 million severance package. He has said his stock sales were part of an ongoing program to sell a certain amount each month, and he didn't dump shares for fear of Enron going under.

Skilling was





THE SPORTS

Nets Sting Hornets for 13th Straight Win

By **TOM CANAVAN**
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Kenyon Martin had 23 points, 13 rebounds, four steals and four blocks, and New Jersey Nets tied the longest winning streak in the NBA this season - 13 - with a 97-84 victory Saturday over the New Orleans Hornets.

The victory was the Nets' 12th straight under coach Lawrence Frank, extending his league record for best coaching start and tying the North American mark for the best start in professional sports.

Joe Morgan took over the Boston Red Sox from John McNamara in 1988 and won a dozen. Jim Price won that many after taking over the baseball New York Giants in 1884.

Richard Jefferson added 21 points and Lucious Harris broke a nine-game double-digit drought with 13 points as New Jersey won its seventh straight at home.

Jason Kidd finished with 11 points, nine assists and nine rebounds to just miss out on his 59th career triple-double, which would have tied him with Larry Bird.

Jamal Mashburn led the Hornets with 28 points and 13 rebounds. Baron Davis added 17 points. Neither shot well, though, as they combined to go 17-for-48 from the field.

While the Nets have done nothing but win since Frank replaced Byron Scott as coach of the two-time defending Eastern Conference champions, this game looked like it might be a problem.

New Orleans, which had won three in a



row, had not played since Wednesday. The Nets were playing their second game in as many nights, having returned home early Saturday after winning at Toronto.

The Nets overcame the potential problem by playing good team basketball while New Orleans relied mostly on Davis and Mashburn to carry the load.

New Orleans, which fell behind by as many as 10 points in the second quarter, used a 13-6 run at the start of the second half to pull even.

Martin, who was limited on Friday night by a sinus infection, then took over by scoring six points in a 10-0 run that gave

New Jersey a 69-59 lead.

New Jersey entered the final quarter with a 74-68 lead, then put the game away with a 10-2 spurt that Martin capped with a three-point play. He had five points in the run, which came with Kidd on the bench.

Martin capped his night from jumping out to the corner to block a 3-point attempt by Darrell Armstrong.

Notes: @ Harris scored in double figures for the first time since Jan. 29. ... Nets first-round draft pick Zoran Planinic played so poorly in Toronto on Friday that Frank played veteran Hubert Davis when Kidd sat. Planinic did not play. ... Mashburn has led the Hornets in seven of 10 games since returning to the lineup. ... New Jersey had 11 blocks and outrebounded New Orleans 54-44.



San Antonio and Detroit also won 13 in a row this season.



THE SPORTS

A-Rod Does Damage in First Yankees Workout

By **BEN WALKER**
AP Baseball Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Several swings into his first Yankees workout, Alex Rodriguez already had done damage - to a car parked too close behind the center-field fence, that is. Early into Saturday's session, New York's newest star launched a long drive that was followed by a loud bonk. The home run ball left a 2-inch dent and blue smear on the hood of a silver Mazda, a rental driven by a reporter from Japan. "I didn't think Alex would be hitting today," Masanori Hirose said. "My mistake."

The shot was one of 10 balls Rodriguez hit over the fence in 65 swings. He took batting practice with two minor league prospects - A-Rod was the one not wearing a helmet - while a few groundskeepers shagged flies. At one point, the reigning AL MVP borrowed young Eric Duncan's bat and promptly broke it, sending the shattered barrel flying down the third-base line.

"Eric, there's your wood," Rodriguez called out, smiling. "That's that minor league wood."

Duncan, the Yankees' No. 1 draft pick last June, didn't mind one bit. As he left the field, he was carrying both pieces of the broken bat.

"I'll be holding on to that one for a while," he said.

Rodriguez fielded about 50 grounders at third base, his new position, bobbling one and letting another skip under his glove.

He did most of that work on his knees, drawn in close on the infield grass. He looked smooth on some slow rollers, charging the balls and making strong, accurate, off-balance throws to first base.

"I'm fine, but you can't really tell where you are until you get into a game," he said.



The one-hour session took place on two fields at the Yankees' minor league complex, about a mile from where the big league pitchers set up camp at Legends Field. About 50 fans fanned out to watch Rodriguez from beyond the fence, and a flock of seagulls landed nearby on the lush outfield grass. A couple of Yankees officials looked on, though owner George Steinbrenner was not among them.

"I feel like I have an injection of energy. I'm floating," Rodriguez said. "I'm still not aware of where I am right now."

"You look in the mirror and see the Yankee uniform, it's awesome," he said.

Rodriguez wore dark blue shorts with a matching T-shirt. He might put on the full pinstripes next week when the rest of the position players report for their first official spring training workout. Traded from Texas last week, Rodriguez was an early arrival. On this day, his teammates were

Duncan, also a third baseman, and outfielder Estee Harris.

"It was one of the best experiences of my life, taking in all that he does," Duncan said.

Harris enjoyed it, too. The second-round draft pick lingered near a chain-link fence to watch Rodriguez handle grounders. Before the workout, manager Joe Torre and Rodriguez talked. A Gold Glove short-stop who hit 47 homers with 118 RBIs for Texas last season, Rodriguez is switching positions while Derek Jeter stays in his usual spot.

"His pride will make him want to be known as a complete player, other than a hitter who also plays third," Torre said. "I don't think he's going to have a bit of a problem."

Taking easy swings, Rodriguez hit long balls to all fields. He cleared the high backdrop in dead center, pulled liners to left and commanded an opposite-field drive to right to "Get up!"

His loudest shot was the one that banged off the Mazda. Hirose wiped away the blue smudge, caused by the "Rawlings" label on the ball, but the dent remained.

"I guess the good news is that it's not my own car," he said.

Jesse O'Dell of Manchester, Conn., wound up with that souvenir, retrieving the ball after it struck the hood. "I thought it was going right for the windshield," he said. "He hits them a long way."





HEADLINERS



'Sesame Street,' Debate Cross Signals

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The accidental flip of a switch provided some unexpected humor during NETV's Legislative coverage Friday.

About 10:30 a.m., as Sen. Arnie Stuthman of Platte Center was debating, NETV's audio feed of Stuthman was briefly switched to sound from PBS' children's show "Sesame Street."

What was heard on the air was a Sesame Street character wondering aloud "where Ernie is hiding today."

Of course, the reference was to a Sesame Street character. But with the conflicting audio and video feeds, it looked as if Stuthman were asking - in an unusually high-pitched voice - for the whereabouts of Omaha Sen. Ernie Chambers.

Gene Nick, an engineer with NETV, said the incident occurred because a switch on the master switchboard was accidentally activated during an operations check on another piece of equipment. "We're sorry about that," Nick said. "We certainly

hope nobody was offended."

Stuthman wasn't. "They should have asked where Arnie was," he laughed.

And Chambers, who sits directly behind Stuthman in the legislative chamber, had an answer to the question. "I'm standing right here. My voice has been quiet, but I'm right here," he said. "There's a power higher than that of the Legislature working that may be trying to get a message to somebody."

Hungry Cod Swallows Coke Can Off Norway

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Things probably would have gone better without Coke for a codfish that swallowed a soda can.

Stig Skaar and his family in western Norway found a slightly dented but intact Coca-Cola can inside the stomach of the fish, media reported Friday.

"I could see something wasn't right," Skaar was quoted as saying by his local

newspaper, Marsteinen, in the western Norway town of Austevoll, some 185 miles west of Oslo.

The fish, caught in the waters off Norway's western coast, was long and skinny and weighed just a few pounds - far less than the 22 pounds a healthy cod of that length should weigh.

The empty soda can filled the fish's entire stomach, leaving no room for real food.

"It's completely unbelievable that he got the whole thing down," Skaar said.

Bergens Tidende, the newspaper in the nearby city of Bergen, reported that cod are notorious for their voracious and indiscriminate appetites.

For example, cods in Norwegian waters have swallowed an 11-pound otter and six frozen hamburger patties, the paper said.

Man Sentenced for Defecating on Floor

SAGINAW, Mich. (AP) — A judge made sure the punishment fit the crime when he sentenced a man to clean 100 toilets at the Saginaw County Jail.

Jonathan F. Naessens, 23, pleaded guilty to stealing a firearm from a Richland Township home, but investigators also

found human feces in the basement near the window where the burglar entered the house.

Authorities say Naessens defecated on the floor. In addition to the toilet scrubbing, Circuit Judge Fred L. Borchard on Wednesday sentenced the Richland

Township man to two years' probation and to pay \$389 in restitution to clean the property.

"The sentence is excellent," Sheriff Charles L. Brown told The Saginaw News. "What's more disgusting than someone coming into your home and doing this?"

Stored Bullets Explode in Wis. Oven

HOWARD, Wis. (AP) — A man and his wife ducked behind a refrigerator when bullets began exploding in their oven, authorities say.

Apartment said the husband had put the ammunition and three handguns in the oven before the couple left on a vacation.

He told officers he thought the items would be safe there in case someone

broke into the home while they were away.

After returning from their trip Tuesday, the wife turned on the oven to prepare dinner and the bullets ignited, Kohlbeck said.

No one was hurt.



Capt. Craig Kohlbeck of the Brown County Sheriff's De-



Staff Sgt. Partin watches closely as a soldier zeroes and groups on the range.

"What we try to do here is make soldiers that make every single round count. We teach them what happens and why. This gives them a better understanding of rifle marksmanship," said 1st Sgt. Scott J. Baughn, Senior Instructor for the IMLARM course, from Merrimack, N.H.

Currently, there are only nine IMLARM instructors in the Army, four of which have traveled to Afghanistan to conduct classes as a Mobile Training Team (MTT). Due to time constraints, the instructors weren't able to cover the entire course. With the help of the brigade command here highlighting specific areas of interest, they compiled a four-day course that covered the majority of real life situations soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq face while out on combat operations.

"It (IMLARM) brings back some of the basics of shooting that they may have forgotten over time," said Aaron G. Almquist, an MTT instructor from Cambridge, Minn.

"They don't get this type of detailed training in basic because of the instructor to soldier ratio and the lack of time," adds Staff Sgt. William N. Partin, an MTT instructor from Copperas Cove, TX.

Day one of the course starts with 7 intensive, one hour classroom sessions, with intermittent breaks be-

tween each major area. The classes cover principles of shooting, positioning, ballistics, zeroing, target analysis, marksmanship training strategies and optics. Each area is vital, so it is important that the instructors recognize when it is time to take a break in order to avoid burnout and ensure that everything that is being taught gets the optimum amount of attention.

"My personal goal with every class is probably like every other instructor...to ensure that what I taught in class actually sinks in and makes for a more confident marksman and soldier," said Staff Sgt. Tito E. Zelada, an MTT instructor from Queens, NY.

After a long day of intensive classroom training, the soldiers are ready to apply all that they have learned on the range during day two. The instructors' objective is to familiarize the soldiers with the zeroing and grouping process with both the factory sights (ironsights) and the M68 Close Combat Optics. They start out by having the soldiers focus on a blank white sheet of paper and try to get a close shot group. They then change over to what is called a modified zeroing target, and shoot another shot group. Finally, they switch to a normal zeroing target complete with lines and a silhouette. They also change the normal routine by giving the soldiers five rounds to zero with instead of the usual three. This helps the shooter by giving him a better

chance to actually see his shooting pattern and decide what he needs to do to improve his shot.

"I was a little thrown off by the plain white piece of paper at first, but after applying what I learned in class...the target really didn't matter," said Staff Sgt. Ben R. Loggins, an infantryman with Alpha Co. 1st Brigade 501st Infantry Battalion from Anchorage, Ala.

"Using that technique helps out a lot. Once we worked our way up to the actual silhouette targets my body positioning and the way I used my sights were like second nature to me," said Staff Sgt. Douglas W. Novak, a radio repairman with the 1st -501st, from Holcombe, Wis.

After the soldiers gained confidence from shooting all day during day two, they moved on to the weapons familiarization part of the course. Day three started out with a four hour class covering the newly instituted Lightweight Shotgun System (LSS) attachment for the M-4 assault rifle. Demolition techniques on breaching tactics using detonation cord and shock tubing, and Close Quarters Marksmanship (CQM) classes covering body positioning and weapon slinging setup were also taught.

"They taught us how to disassemble and reassemble the LSS and how to change from right to left handed shooting modes. I was glad that they did that

MTT cont. on pg. 11



1st Sgt. Baughn monitors a soldier as he familiarizes himself with the LSS.





"Triple Deuce Day"

Story and photos by
SpC. C. Elijah Spencer
211th Mobile Public Affairs

The bleak darkness of the night fades away leaving only a bitter chill to roam the air around the Kandahar Air Field. It is a typical morning as far as the weather is concerned, but the soldiers that don't consider themselves early birds are in for a rather large surprise this morning. The dust becomes thicker in the air as the rumble grows stronger; Suddenly, the noisy anarchy becomes systematic. The pounding of feet on the ground, the clapping in sync, and the barking of cadence swells your tent as it passes you by. "Gimme' some! PT! good for you! good for me! Oh yeah! Feels good! Like it should!" What in the world could be making this much racket in the earliest part of the morning? That's right...It's Triple Deuce Day.

The soldiers of 2nd Bri-



gade 22nd Infantry Regiment pinned on their Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) during an awards ceremony on February 22, 2004 (Triple Deuce Day). The day began with a task force run around KAF two times equaling roughly four miles.

The CIB is awarded to an infantryman serving in combat units conducting combat operations under hostile fire during a military campaign.



The ceremony covered the history of 2-22 while Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Joseph Dichairo and Command Sgt. Maj. Vincent Camacho cut the traditional 2-22 cake. Afterwards, soldiers of distinction were presented with their CIB or the combat patch insignia by 1st Brigade Commander Col. William B. Garrett III and 1st Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Frank M. Grippe. Garrett and Grippe then presented each company commander with their CIB's and the company C.O.'s and 1st Sgt.'s followed by pinning on their soldiers' CIB's all at the same time.

The ceremony was then concluded, followed by a task force photo and then back to work.

"Everyone's going to walk away feeling like a hero today," said Dichairo.





1st Sgt. Baughn watches as a soldier fires the LSS attachment down range at KAF

before we could pick up on any bad habits," said Loggins. "It's a nice weapon. I like the fact that it's easy to mount and dismount. It makes it easy to prep your weapon out in the field before you have to actually use it."

The soldiers are then given a demonstration on shooting and clearing a doorway with the LSS and the Mossberg pistol-grip 12 gauge shotgun out on the range.

The next part of range exercises is CQM stationary techniques. The soldiers are given instructions on proper body and weapon positioning when engaging the enemy in a close environment. The training is carried over into live fire exercises using the CQM techniques where it stresses the necessity to continue to engage the enemy until he is down.

"We were so used to combined pairs shooting that we would lower our weapons after a sequence out of habit," said Sgt. Jose L. Galvan, an infantryman from Bravo Co. 2nd Brigade, 87th Infantry Battalion, from Watertown, NY. "They teach us to keep our weapon up and keep shooting until the target is down. It takes you away from the range mentally and puts you into real world situations...It's easier to apply."

The CQM training continued on day four, and the instructors added left and right movements on to the already innate stationary method. The final stage of CQM encompasses stationary, left and right movements, and forward movements while shooting. It also covered alternate shooting positions such as shooting while kneeling and

standing.

"Integrating the coach into reloading and pulling security up top while you reload was a very good thing," said Novak. "It makes it that much more realistic."

The main focus of the instructors was to re-emphasize and/or introduce the little aspects of shooting that make a difference in the proficiency of a marksman.

"It helps so much because it focuses on the little things that you forgot about, or didn't even know about," said Galvin. "That makes such a big difference and gives you the confidence you need to become a more proficient shooter."

One of the main things the instructors want when soldiers go through their course, is to "take the blinders off" in reference to bad shooting habits that may prevent the soldier from benefiting from the training during the course.

"Breaking old habits is so much harder than teaching new ones," said Baughn.

The 10th Mountain Division stands out above the rest by realizing the need for the IMLARM course and implementing training that will directly benefit soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. It proves more and more that today's military is constantly growing and changing by learning from every campaign they undergo. With courses like the IMLARM and instructors like the ones on the MTT here, the United States will always have the most proficient and adaptive military force in the world; ensuring that Americans will be protected from any and all future threats to their way of life.

Mountain Warrior Weekly is always accepting comments and suggestions as to how we can improve your newspaper. If you have comments or suggestions, or simply just want to be added to our emailing list, email the staff at

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